

DOCKET NO: 262017US41PCT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF :  
CAROLE HOBON, ET AL. : EXAMINER: SIMONE, C.  
SERIAL NO: 10/516,512 :  
FILED: DECEMBER 1, 2004 : GROUP ART UNIT: 1794  
FOR: GLASS-CERAMIC PLATE AND :  
METHOD FOR MAKING SAME

DECLARATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.132

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

SIR:

We, Carol Hobon, Alain Renault, Helene Harmand, citizens of France and Pablo Vilato, citizen of Spain , hereby declare and state that:

1. We are co-inventors of the above identified U.S. patent application.
2. We have been working in the area of glass and ceramic structures for appliances for at least the following time periods Ms. Hobon: 10 years, Mr. Renault: 30 years, Ms. Harmand: 14 years, and Mr. Vilato: 17 years.
3. At least one of us is an author/co-authors of at least the following papers in the area of glass and ceramic structures:
4. At least one of us is an inventor/co-inventor of at least the following patents in the area of glass and ceramic structures:

U.S. Patent No. 6,691,699 (Ms. Harmand and Mr. Vilato);

U.S. Patent Nos. 5,786,289, 5,418,025, and 5,324,374 (Ms. Harmand); and

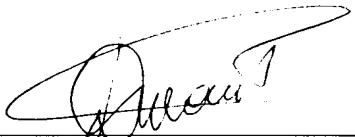
U.S. Patent Nos. 7,671,303, 7,449,244, 7,375,307, 6,528,440, 6,492,623, 6,399,183, 6,194,690, 6,182,472, 6,140,618, 6,120,282, 6,118,103, 6,103,338, 5,968,219, 5,648,172, 5,288,527, and 5,206,089 (Mr. Vilato)

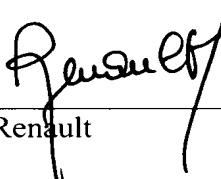
5. Based on our experience in glass and ceramic structures, especially with regard to glass-ceramic plates used in appliances, it is desirable to bevel the edge of the plates to give a better appearance and to allow more ergonomic operation and ease of cleaning. These bevels will not detract from the mechanical strength of the plates as long as the width of the bevels is limited to well below 35 mm. In practice, these bevels generally are the order of 12 mm wide. In this regard, increasing the width of these bevels can cause problems, particularly irregularity of the line along the crest of the bevels. This irregularity is due to tiny faults included in most raw materials used to make such plates. These faults include small bumps or irregular widths along the edge of the plate to be beveled.

6. We discovered that the irregularity along the crest the bevel occurs when the height of the bevel is too small in comparison to the width of the bevel. We further discovered that when a ratio of the width of the bevel (measured along the slope from the top to the bottom of the bevel) to the height of the bevel is 23.3 or less, the irregularities along the crest of the bevel can be eliminated. In fact, when the above noted ratio is 23.3 or less, even bevels greater than 35 mm can be included in a plate without the detrimental effects to the plate noted above.

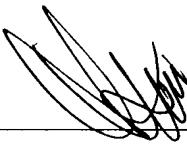
7. I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of this application or any patent issuing thereon.

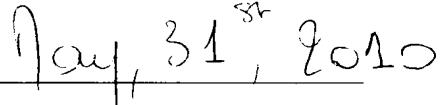
8. Further declarants saith not.

  
Carol Hobon

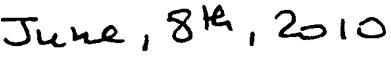
  
Alain Renault

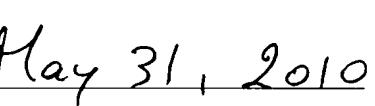
  
Helene Harmand

  
Pablo Vilato

  
Date

  
Date

  
Date

  
Date